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THAW TRIAL MAY COME TO ITS CLOSE IN THREE WEEKS

Evelyn Thaw is Again Called to the Stand to Answer a Few Questions and the Nesbit Family Skeleton is Given a Few Shakes.

Experts are Given the Stand and the Work of Securing Their Testimony is Begun--Jerome Strikes a Tartar and is Given as Good as He Sends--Indications now are That the End of the Trial is in Sight--Most of the Sensations Have Already Been Sprung.

New York, Feb. 27.—That skeleton in the Nesbit family closet was rattled again today by Jerome, when at the opening of the Thaw trial, he recalled Evelyn to the stand for a moment in an endeavor to bring out, that upon her return from her European trip with Thaw, she lived in such fear of the young Pittsburger that she had her brother Howard purchase a revolver for her with which she intended to protect herself, should Thaw resume his attentions.

Evelyn denied that she had any such fears, that she ever owned a revolver, or ever talked to her brother on the subject. Though he made no comments upon the matter, the prosecutor indicated that he intends to put Howard Nesbit on the stand and have him swear that his sister did carry a revolver for purpose indicated.

The sensational twist given to the proceedings was carrying the proceedings out of the insanity channel, back into that which they drifted today. That the "melancholy days" of the hearing has come, during which a mass of expert testimony will be dumped into

the basket, was fully apparent when the trial was resumed, following the noon adjournment.

Following Evelyn on the stand came Dr. Charles Pingavan of Pittsburg, one of Thaw's family physicians, who testified to Thaw's past irrational acts.

Then came Dr. Britton Evans of New Jersey, an insanity expert, who took the stand for cross-examination. Evans is an entirely different witness from Dr. Wiley, the Pittsburg physician, whose testimony Jerome riddled. He proved quite worthy of the district attorney's steel and the bout of wit proved an interesting contest. The witness meeting every jab and thrust of the prosecutor with a clever parry.

For the first time a line on the probable duration of the trial was obtained when Delmas declared he would probably conclude his case this week. It is expected the state will consume a week, at least, with its rebuttal evidence. Then the defense will have its last chance. Following will come the arguments and instructions to the jury. There is a possibility that Thaw's fate will be entrusted to

the jury within three weeks.

New York, Feb. 27.—May McKenzie, Evelyn Thaw's bosom friend, is seriously ill in her apartments. Subpoena served for the district attorney sought to serve papers on her today and learned of her illness. Her physicians hoped she would be fully recovered in a couple of days. Nervousness and strain of trial are assigned as the cause of indisposition.

New York, Feb. 27.—From the pages of a schoolgirl diary there was thrown upon Evelyn Nesbit Thaw yesterday a glint of light which amazingly illuminated her personality. In the surprise of that revelation, the defendant for whose life she is fighting became a secondary figure for the time.

The interest in the trial as such was temporarily forgotten in the discovery, that the child woman with the deadened soul, this waif of the half world in whom quick-witted self-defensive shrewdness has seemed the highest mental attribute thus far, is in truth, not only a vital purposeful character, but the possessor of genuine intellectual qualities. More than that, she is, in her own way, a shrewd philosopher, viewing her world of sharp contrasts, with a keen insight, a cool speculation. In this diary of a seventeen-year-old, she had formulated for herself a scheme of life.

What the ancient sage bemoaned in confessional lamentation she deliberately chose as the part for her to play. "Seeing the better, I follow the worse." Throughout the few sentences of the booklet which were read in court, this sentiment was pervasive.

The diary was written in 1904. Continued on Page Seven

WOMAN SENTENCED TO JAIL FOR FIVE YEARS

Washington, Feb. 27.—Miss Ellen Puckett, formerly an employee in the agricultural department, who had entered a plea of guilty to the charge of forgery, yesterday was sentenced by Justice Bernard to serve five years in the penitentiary. Miss Puckett was charged with obtaining money by forging mortgages on property, which she did not own.

TANK EXPLODES

Two Men Killed, Four in Hospital and Scores Overcome by Ammonia Fumes.

New York, Feb. 27.—Two firemen were killed, four others are dangerously ill in the hospital and scores were overcome by ammonia fumes, liberated by a tank explosion at a fire in the refrigerating plant of the Volunteer meat market today. Firemen went to the cellar to fight the flames when the explosion occurred. The monetary loss is small.

MIXED THINGS UP IN THE LEGISLATURE

Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 27.—The floor of the house yesterday was the scene of an encounter between Congressman-elect R. N. Hackett of the eighth district and Representative C. G. Bryant of Wilkes county. Hackett used his right hand effect, while Bryant drew a long-bladed pocket knife and made for Hackett, but was intercepted and disarmed. He then attempted to strike Hackett with an inkstand and subsequently with a chair, but the blows fell short.

When quiet was restored, Bryant apologized for some of his offensive words that caused the fracas.

SENATOR PATTERSON WANTS TO BUY THE RAILROADS

CONFESSES THAT HER STORY WAS A HOAX

Youngstown, Feb. 27.—Mrs. John Johnson, the colored woman who told the police on Sunday a story of having been bound and gagged by two white men, who ransacked the house, has confessed to a hoax. She said that she had bound herself in order to fool the man with whom she was living and protect George Scott, her son, who had left the city, taking with him a watch, some money, and a coat.

PROMISED \$7,000,000

White was to Receive Hand-some Sum for Effecting a Gas Merger.

Cleveland, Feb. 27.—It was admitted in court today that Archibald White, in return for his services in promoting the proposed \$75,000,000 merger of local gas companies is to receive \$7,000,000 in common stock. The Columbia Gas and Electric company, the merged company, has issued \$10,000,000 in common stock, \$3,000,000 of which has been set aside as bonus to the shareholders of the two old companies. The admission was made by Caleb E. Gowan, who, with Charles P. Taft of Cincinnati, engineered the Cleveland end of the gas combine.

The promoters are forced to show their hand by suit brought by a woman who seeks to check the merger.

SENT A CURLY PIG TAIL THROUGH THE MAIL

Cleveland, O., Feb. 27.—Claude Platt and Luella Underwood were arrested this afternoon at Wellington, and brought to this city by a United States marshal, charged with violating the postal laws by sending through the mails the curly tail of a pig. The mail was addressed to the wife of Platt, together with an obscene reference to the inclosure. The tail was carefully wrapped in a satin lined box and now rests securely in the safe in the office of district attorney Sullivan.

Government Ownership Strongly Advocated by the Colorado Senator Who has a Plan for Successfully Operating Them.

He Startles His Colleagues With His Open Declarations—Non-Partisan Board Similar to the Commerce Commission to Have Full Charge of Operating the Railways—Most Radical of All Reformers is Senator Patterson.

SEN efw 6-EE7 SHRIDL HRLUC Washington, Feb. 27.—Senator Patterson of Colorado, startled his democratic colleagues in the senate today by advocating government ownership of all railways, under condemnation proceedings and at the estimated market valuation of eleven billions dollars.

He held that the commerce and post roads classes of the constitution, under the supreme court interpretation, gave ample authority for the government to acquire the railways doing business within the states, as well as those engaged in inter-state commerce. He presented a comprehensive plan of operation, which calls for a great non-partisan board of transportation accordingly under the supervision of an enlarged Interstate Commerce Commission, absolute power to determine rates and classifications with the understanding, that at first there shall be no radical changes, but rates, ratemaking, fiscal, legal and operating methods be gradually supplanted.

INFERNAL MACHINE PLACED ON THE TRACK

Attempt to Wreck the Train Upon Which Grand Duke Nicholas Nicholasievitch was Riding is Discovered by Guards.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 27.—The Novoye Vremya publishes a sensational account of the foiling of another plot upon the life of Grand Duke Nicholas Nicholasievitch, president of the council of national defense, and second cousin of Emperor Nicholas. This plot is said to have been discovered shortly before eight last night, the time scheduled for the arrival here of the imperial train bringing the grand duke from Tsarskoe Seio. A guard patrolling the track near the station at the St. Petersburg end of the line detected a man dressed as a workman in the act of placing a wooden box in the middle of the track at a point 200 yards from the imperial pavilion. Aided by the darkness, the plotter

replaced the cab of an accomplice nearby and drove away. The box on his track was found to contain an infernal machine of enormous power. The mechanism was designed to cause explosion from the vibration of the train as it passed. The guard who made the discovery communicated it to the railroad officials, who signalled the train and succeeded in stopping it before it reached the machine. The entire neighborhood of the railroad station was at once surrounded by the police. A statement that the orders for the grand duke's journey into St. Petersburg were countermanded at the last moment has, according to the Novoye Vremya, been confirmed by the police.

WHY DID STEVENS RESIGN HIS POSITION?

This With, "Why has the Administration Change Front Suddenly?" are Questions Which are Being Freely Asked in Washington.

Washington, Feb. 27.—Everybody here is asking why Chief Engineer Stevens resigned from the Panama canal work, and why the administration, after months of work, apparently committing itself to that plan, finally decided to reject all bids for the construction of the canal by contract. No one in a position of authority will give a satisfactory answer to these questions.

When the veil of secrecy is removed, it will probably be found that the hand of Paul Morton,

former secretary of the navy, now head of the great Equitable Life in New York, appointed by Ryan interests, was the principal cause of this new embarrassment to the administration, in its canal work.

Upon the opening of bids, January 12, last, it was discovered that Oliver's was only 6.75 per cent. Immediately there began a fierce campaign to undermine him. Morton made frequent visits to Washington and used all kinds of arguments to prevent the acceptance of Oliver's bid.

GENERAL STOESSEL ACCUSED OF COWARDICE

Lieut. General Smiroff Accuses Him of Having Surrendered Port Arthur to Save His Own Life—Defeat at Mukden Traceable to Treason at Port Arthur.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 27.—A copy of the secret report on the defense of Port Arthur which is the basis of an indictment on which Lieut. General Stoessel, Lieut. Gen. Fock, who commanded the Fourth East Siberian division at Port Arthur and Major General Reiss, chief of General Stoessel's staff, are standing trial for their lives before the supreme court martial have been obtained by the Associated Press.

The report which was written by Lieut. General Smiroff, the actual commandant of the fortress, is sensational in the extreme, and accuses Stoessel of cowardice and incapacity, and finally of the deliberate treasonable hastening of

the surrender to save his own life and in defense of the decision of two successive councils of war. The report is biased in the extreme, breathes the most bitter personal enmity, and shows that the high officers of the Port Arthur garrison in the darkest days of the siege were almost at each other's throats.

In conclusion General Smiroff says: "The last period of the siege Stoessel usurped my authority with the assistance of General Fock and Reiss and committed treason in surrendering suddenly and prematurely. I regard our defeat at Mukden, as a direct result of this treason."

WILL REBUILD HIS HOUSE WITH BONES

Bandit Raisuli Sends a Growsome Ultimatum to Sultan—He is Strongly Fortified and Well Provisioned and Only One Day From Tangier.

Tangier, Morocco, Feb. 27.—Bandit Raisuli, strongly entrenched and well supplied with men and funds, within a day's journey from here has sent the following novel and gruesome ultimatum to the sultan and Maghden: "Sir—I purpose to rebuild my house at the final with the bones of you and your followers, who destroyed it."

NEARLY CLOSING TIME.



TEACHER AND PUPILS PERISH IN A FIRE

School Building Catches Fire From the Furnace and Sixteen Children in Kindergarten Department are Suffocated.

Montreal, Feb. 27.—Principal Maxwell and 16 children perished in a fire which broke out late yesterday afternoon in the Hochelaga school of the Protestant school commission. The school was located in a two-story brick building in the east end of the city and was attended by about 200 children, whose parents are mechanics living in the neighborhood.

The fire started from the furnace and was first noticed by workmen employed nearby. The teachers were notified and the work of getting the children out of the building began.

The kindergarten department was located on the second floor and it was here that the loss of life occurred. The children were started out, but on reaching the landing, they found the lower hall full of smoke. Into this they refused to descend, though the way at this time was quite safe.

Huddled together on the stairway at first, they retreated to the rooms from which they had come. When the firemen arrived, an extension ladder was placed in position and a large number of children were rescued in this way.

Assisting in the work was Miss Maxwell. The fire by this time was making its way upwards and the smoke was growing so dense that even the experienced firemen could not stand it. Captain Carson endeavored to get Miss Maxwell to go down the ladder, but she refused and evading the attempt to detain her rushed back into the back part of the building in search of her little ones. When the firemen were finally able to make their way to the back portion of the building, she was found lying on the floor, with a little one beside her. All those who perished died from asphyxiation.

The building was not provided with fire escapes. Miss Sarah Maxwell, principal of the school, was 31 years of age. The children who were killed ranged from 3 to 8 years.

A rigid investigation has been ordered. It is asserted at the office of the building commissioner that official notice was served on the school commissioner in November that not only this school, but 50 others in the city must be provided with fire escapes at once.

A point to be explained is why the baby class had been taken to an upper story.